

Methow River M2 Project Restoration

Project Summary: The Methow Subbasin habitat improvement efforts meet Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion commitments. Reclamation funds project design and supports project sponsors in carrying out habitat projects, while the Bonneville Power Administration funds actual project construction. This work is coordinated through the regional Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board and the local Methow Restoration Council. Reclamation partners with the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) and Trout Unlimited to restore fish passage to historic habitat; assess habitat conditions; improve habitat, fish screens and river flows. Reclamation, MSRF and the Yakama Nation are working on a reach-based effort that will enhance habitat over eight miles of the Methow River. Habitat conditions and opportunities to protect and improve habitat were identified in the Middle Methow Reach Assessment.

Strategic Value: The work addresses a specific reach of the river, resulting in a scientific approach to sustainable habitat improvement that focuses on restoring natural river function. Value is gained through integration with a robust effort to build community understanding and support of habitat projects. The projects in the reach include land protection through easements and acquisition, side channel reconnections, levee removal and addition of large wood structures. In addition, partners have worked with local landowners to increase flows on the Methow Valley's many critical rivers and creeks by improving irrigation efficiency and converting river diversions to groundwater wells.



Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
Twisp Ponds Restoration site



Upper Columbia River steelhead spawning in the
Twisp Ponds

robust scientific study carried out by the U.S. Geological Survey in partnership with Reclamation. Projects to date have significantly increased the amount of water left in streams through completion of: 16 fish passage projects, 12 fish screen installations, seven habitat improvement projects, four habitat assessments and 11 water efficiency improvements. These projects allow for continued operation of Reclamations' projects as part of the 2010 FCRPS Biological Opinion activities.

Benefits: These projects help repair the river, promote natural fish production, and accommodate the vision of landowners and the community. The success of this reach-based effort will be assessed through a



Methow Valley Irrigation District East Diversion
Modification Project: looking downstream
showing the fenced intake structure and riparian
bench with covered pipeline